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Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management

protecting natural resources
while promoting responsible
economic development

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INTRODUCTION

Massachusetts' 1,500 miles of coastline are a rich and diverse fabric of natural wonders and economic engines that both improve our quality of life and enrich our economy. Businesses, tourists, and residents alike are drawn to our coast for the many opportunities it offers. The Coast Alliance recently reported, in *State of the Coasts*, that coastal industries contribute $70.7 billion to Massachusetts. The importance of the tourism, shipping, and commercial fishing to the state's economy show that in coastal Massachusetts, the environment is the economy. Protecting these important coastal resources while promoting responsible economic development is the charge of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program.

Massachusetts' coastal program is implemented through several agencies within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), with the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office (MCZM) serving as the lead policy and technical assistance agency. MCZM brings together a small, dedicated staff of technical specialists in marine sciences, policy, law, and public outreach, along with regional coordinators who serve as liaisons to communities and local organizations. MCZM is an effective state-federal partnership with strong links to local governments.

THE MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL ZONE

Massachusetts' coastal zone extends from the three-mile limit of the state territorial sea to 100 feet beyond the first major land transportation route encountered (a road, highway, rail line, etc.). In addition, all of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Gosnold are included in the coastal zone.

Although this area is the focus of the coastal program, MCZM's concerns go beyond this narrow strip of land and sea. The coast can be affected by activities both farther inland and farther seaward. In fact, coastal watersheds (areas that drain into coastal waters) make up the entire eastern half of the state. Contaminants released to air, soil, or water in these watersheds can be picked up by rainfall and snow melt and carried over land, in rivers and streams, through the air, in groundwater, or through drainage systems to the coast. MCZM also is involved with managing large ocean areas, including Stellwagen Bank and the Gulf of Maine. Human activities, such as fishing and shipping, and the release of contaminants into these ocean areas also affect the Massachusetts coast.

MCZM HISTORY

Massachusetts' Coastal Zone Management Program was created in response to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. The CZMA established a voluntary program that gives coastal states the funding and the opportunity to develop and implement plans to manage coastal resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, the federal agency that administers the CZMA, has established a flexible framework that enables states to develop strategies that meet their specific needs within their state governmental structure. The CZMA also gives states the authority to review federal projects, federally financed projects, and projects receiving federal licenses and permits, to ensure that they abide by state laws, regulations, and policies.

State agencies, the state legislature, local officials, environmental groups, business organizations, and interested citizens were directly involved with setting up the coastal program to ensure that it would truly serve the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth. In 1978, Massachusetts finalized its coastal zone management plan. The plan was approved by NOAA, making Massachusetts the first state on the eastern seaboard to be granted federal approval. In 1983, the Massachusetts legislature formally established MCZM as part of EOEA to take the lead in implementing the coastal program. From 1978 through 1996, Massachusetts has received a total of $28.3 million in federal grants for the coastal program.

To capitalize on today's opportunities, MCZM is targeting its resources toward:

- *Encouraging port and harbor revitalization* so that local economies can find renewed economic opportunities that are sustainable and environmentally friendly, citizens can find recreational access, and the ports and harbors can maintain their aesthetic charm.

- *Restoring and protecting coastal water quality* to ensure that coastal areas are safe for swimming and fishing, and coastal resources are protected for future use. With improved water quality, shellfish beds can be reopened for commercial and recreational digging and aquaculture (fish farming) can occur in our coastal waters.

- *Preserving special natural areas* to protect significant wildlife habitat and endangered species, as well as citizen's health and safety.

PUBLIC INPUT — THE COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

When the state legislature established MCZM as part of EOEA in 1983, it also empowered the Governor to formally establish the Coastal Resources Advisory Board (CRAB). The purpose of CRAB is to generally advise the Governor and the Secretary of EOEA on the implementation of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program. CRAB is made up of 16 citizen representatives of statewide educational, business, and public interest organizations, as well as government agencies with a role in the coastal program. CRAB members are appointed by the Governor and the Secretary of EOEA. As individuals who are directly affected by MCZM activities, CRAB members bring a unique perspective to coastal issues.

CRAB's purpose is to ensure that Massachusetts' Coastal Zone Management Program maintains a close connection to the communities, citizens, and interest groups that it most commonly serves. Clearly, CRAB's input strengthens the ability of the coastal program to respond to the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

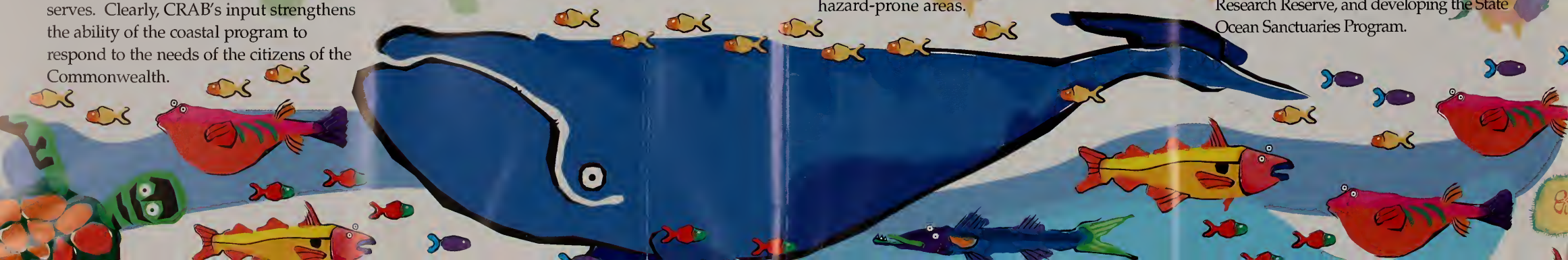
MCZM'S MISSION AND ACTIVITIES

MCZM's mission is to provide policy leadership, assistance, and education to the network of agencies, communities, and individuals who are collectively responsible for the stewardship of coastal resources, in order to promote well-informed decisions, protect the integrity of natural systems, and respond effectively to human needs. To achieve these goals, as well as to meet the needs of municipal officials, property owners, educators, and others in the coastal community, MCZM performs the following major activities:

Federal Consistency Review — While MCZM is not a permitting agency, it does have the authority to review federal activities in the Massachusetts coastal zone to ensure that they are consistent with state coastal policy. Consequently, any coastal project that requires a federal license, is implemented by a federal agency, or is carried out with federal funds must be approved by MCZM before it can take place. Overall, MCZM's Federal Consistency Review gives the Commonwealth the power to ensure that federal actions meet state standards.

Port/Harbor Planning — MCZM works hard to make sure that waterfront areas in the Commonwealth grow in a safe, environmentally sound, and economically prosperous manner. One way MCZM pursues these goals is to encourage the creation or expansion of water-dependent facilities in developed port and harbor areas (known as Designated Port Areas, or DPAs). This approach maximizes the value of these developed ports and ensures that businesses that require close proximity to harbors, such as shipping and fishing facilities, will have a place to flourish. MCZM also helps communities develop harbor plans to promote sustainable development in these vital economic areas. The success of these plans, however, often rests on the navigability of the harbors. Assessing dredging needs and siting options for disposal of dredged materials are, therefore, two MCZM priorities. For high hazard coastal areas (such as barrier beaches) that have been repeatedly battered by coastal storms, MCZM provides technical information and policy development to local officials to help them manage growth in these hazard-prone areas.

Special Natural Areas Protection — MCZM is in a unique position to identify the most significant natural coastal areas in the state and to take the lead in creating initiatives for preserving and protecting these resources. MCZM provides technical assistance to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management for delineation and designation of coastal Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), which are regionally significant coastal wetlands, and other areas that are given more stringent regulatory protection. MCZM also plays an active role in identifying potential coastal wetland restoration sites, and coordinates and participates in the resulting wetlands restoration efforts. In addition, through Federal Consistency Review and technical assistance, MCZM pays close attention to barrier beaches, salt marshes, and other important wetland resource areas because they buffer the coast from storms, waves, and flooding. MCZM also played significant roles in designating Stellwagen Bank as a National Marine Sanctuary, designating the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and developing the State Ocean Sanctuaries Program.



Coastal Water Quality Protection — Clearly, without clean water, the value of the Commonwealth's coast would be vastly diminished. Good water quality is necessary for fishing, shellfishing, aquaculture, swimming, and most of the other activities that draw people to the coast. Through the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, MCZM is working with federal and state agencies, local officials, industry representatives, environmentalists, and the public to develop enforceable measures to restore and protect coastal waters from nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, which is currently the number one pollution problem in U.S. coastal waters. (NPS pollution occurs when contaminants are picked up by rain water and snow melt and carried over land, in groundwater, or through drainage systems to the nearest water body.) MCZM also administers the Coastal Pollutant Remediation (CPR) Program, which will make $4 million available to municipalities in Massachusetts coastal watersheds. These grants can be used to reduce transportation-related nonpoint pollution sources, specifically stormwater runoff from roadways and holding tank discharge from boats.

In addition, the Shellfish Bed Restoration Program, which was developed with the assistance of MCZM staff and uses Massachusetts Bays Program funds, works to open beds that are closed due to pollution. MCZM also assists with the development of oil spill response plans, is active in the permitting process for discharges from wastewater treatment plants into coastal waters, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of EOEA on a variety of water quality issues.

Emergency Management — MCZM works with other state and federal agencies to help the Commonwealth prepare for and respond to storms and other natural or man-made disasters. With its technical, planning, and mapping expertise, MCZM can play an important role in helping communities and individuals minimize risks to property and safety during these emergencies. MCZM also is involved in Operations and Response to coastal disasters, by serving as the leader of the Commonwealth's Rapid Response Storm Damage Survey Team. This team gathers information about storm damage and gets this information to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Operations Center within one to two days of when the storm hits. MCZM's damage assessments focus the response and recovery to the hardest hit areas and enable the Governor to rapidly determine the need for federal assistance.

Shoreline Public Access — To help the public get to and enjoy the coast, MCZM supports a variety of initiatives that promote public access. For example, MCZM has been actively involved in the development and implementation of the Waterways Regulatory Program (Chapter 91 regulations), which licenses activities on public tidelands. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, the public has the right to fish, fowl, and navigate on tidal flats (the area between the high and low tide lines). The Waterways Regulatory Program protects these public rights and encourages water-dependent uses of tideland resources. MCZM is also providing technical assistance to help communities reclaim rights-of-way to the sea, such as public landings and footpaths. In addition, MCZM is assembling a list of attorneys willing to provide legal assistance for right-of-way preservation free of charge, or at reduced rates.

Technical Assistance — Information is the key to helping others make the best possible choices about coastal issues. That is why MCZM's staff of scientists, planners, attorneys, regional coordinators, and other specialists focuses on providing technical assistance to local decision-makers and concerned citizens. MCZM's areas of technical expertise include harbor planning, dredging, tidelands protection, water quality management, special natural areas designations and planning, geology and coastal hazards identification and mitigation, and public access to the coast. MCZM holds workshops, symposia, and conferences, and produces publications and other materials to provide local officials and the public with technical information.

Education and Public Information — Education raises awareness, and awareness affects change. To help people understand coastal issues, MCZM maintains a public education and information program. Through this program, MCZM produces a variety of brochures, guidebooks, maps, and other materials to help inform and educate the public. For example, MCZM produces *Coastlines*, a newsletter that includes articles on technical issues and regulations affecting the coastal zone. Another major MCZM public outreach effort is COASTSWEEP, the statewide beach cleanup that thousands of people participate in each September. MCZM also has a home page at http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/czm/. MCZM's public outreach efforts are supported by the entire staff and are led by specialists in communications, public information, and graphic arts.

Data Acquisition, Management, & Access — Sound coastal policy depends on a solid information base. MCZM therefore strives to promote and provide access to physical and cultural information through federal, state, and local data development and data sharing projects. MCZM maintains a digital and paper data library that contains a variety of materials that are available to coastal specialists and decision-makers, such as: historic and contemporary aerial photographs, historic shorelines, and eelgrass inventories. MCZM is also equipped with a state of the art geographic information system and aerial photo-mapping technology.

MCZM SUCCESS STORIES

Through these activities, MCZM has achieved many victories for the coast of Massachusetts. Recent highlights include:

- *Planning for productive ports & harbors* — MCZM played a leading role in the development of Governor Weld's Port Commission report, which provides a blueprint for port and harbor improvements. MCZM is continuing to lead the way in this area by working with state agencies to implement the Port Commission's recommendations, which address the needs of both the Commonwealth's major ports and its smaller harbors.

- *Balancing barrier beach use* — MCZM developed the nation's first comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, state-of-the-art reference guide on how to balance competing uses on barrier beaches. This publication has been nationally recognized for its thorough, workable recommendations. For example, implementation of the policy guidelines on protecting rare and endangered species habitat has resulted in a substantial increase in the endangered piping plover population in Massachusetts.

- *Opening shellfish beds* — MCZM participates in the Shellfish Bed Restoration Program, which supported local initiatives to open over 400 acres of shellfish beds its first year. MCZM will continue to support efforts to open shellfish beds through its programs that reduce point and non-point sources of coastal water pollution.

- *Promoting aquaculture* — MCZM was the lead agency in developing a strategy to enhance aquaculture (fish farming) in the coastal waters of the Commonwealth. Through this effort, MCZM produced the *Aquaculture Strategic Plan*, a coordinated five-year action plan that forms a framework to encourage the growth of the aquaculture industry during a critical stage of development. The plan includes 68 specific recommendations for the state to implement to overcome existing constraints and take advantage of opportunities in the aquaculture industry.

- *Warning property owners about erosion-prone areas* — MCZM, in cooperation with NOAA, is mapping high hazard areas along the entire 1,500 miles of Massachusetts coastline. These maps will allow government agencies, as well as potential buyers, to identify coastline that is prone to storm damage and significant erosion and to predict erosion potential.

- *Informing the public about shoreline access* — MCZM produced *The Massachusetts Coast Guide: Access to Public Open Spaces Along the Shoreline, Volume 1* with the help of several other state agencies. The Coast Guide includes 25 full-color maps covering the area from Salisbury to Hull, which contain nearly 400 coastal access sites. The Coast Guide is MCZM's biggest hit ever, and the MCZM Information Line was flooded with thousands of calls from people requesting copies.

- *Setting national precedents in the use of Federal Consistency jurisdiction* — While the CZMA always gave states the authority to review projects that directly affect the coastal zone, the 1990 CZMA reauthorization allowed state programs to also review projects that might affect the land and water resources in the coastal zone. Under this authority, MCZM has worked with the town of Seabrook, New Hampshire, to relocate a discharge from a wastewater treatment plant that would have caused shellfish bed closures in Massachusetts. Similarly, MCZM worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an offshore dredged material disposal site to ensure that only clean sediments were deposited in a highly productive marine habitat.

- *Forming productive relationships with federal agencies* — MCZM strives to develop strong working relationships with federal agencies that are involved in coastal issues. A primary example of this is MCZM's work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a Massachusetts Programmatic General Permit (PGP). For projects that have limited environmental impacts, the PGP replaces an array of Corps permits with a single permit and eliminates duplicative state and federal reviews. In addition, MCZM has worked with EPA to develop a number of general permits for low impact projects. MCZM is also the only state coastal program in the country to sit as a member of the federal Joint Processing Committee, in which resource agencies undertake coordinated review of proposed projects.

COORDINATION

With so many state, federal, local, private, and nonprofit groups working on coastal issues, someone has to make the effort to focus everyone's energies into a targeted and coordinated approach. Whenever possible, MCZM takes the responsibility to bring all these groups together by actively coordinating coastal policy-making and implementation with local, state, regional, national, and international organizations.

On the local level . . . MCZM works closely with the 78 coastal cities and towns in Massachusetts. MCZM provides technical assistance and other support to local officials and other interested parties. In particular, MCZM employs four regional coordinators (which are discussed in greater detail below) that serve as direct liaisons to the communities.

On the state level . . . MCZM's program policies have been written so that they are compatible with Massachusetts' environmental regulations. MCZM and the regulatory agencies, therefore, are inextricably linked. MCZM's involvement in the regulatory process takes many forms, such as providing up-to-date technical information for the development of new regulations, resolving policy questions that affect the permitting process, providing comments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Unit during their project review, and bringing together federal and state regulatory officials to work out problems that have stalled important projects. MCZM also coordinates state efforts by convening interagency task forces to solve complex problems, developing networks on coastal issues, and serving as the coastal lead with Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act issues.

This breadth and depth of involvement allows MCZM to gain a "big picture" perspective on the state's management of the coastal zone. This unique perspective, combined with the detailed local knowledge of MCZM's regional coordinators, is sought out by other state agencies when questions arise about coastal issues. In a larger sense, this ability to see the forest and the trees allows MCZM to provide leadership in the effective management of the Commonwealth's coastal resources.

On a regional level . . . Because most coastal issues transcend municipal and state boundaries, MCZM is also an integral part of a regional coastal network that includes municipalities, state and federal lawmakers, academic and research institutions, environmental groups, and the business community. In addition to its regional offices, MCZM's major regional efforts include administering two National Estuary Programs: The Buzzards Bay Project and the Massachusetts Bays Program (which are discussed in greater detail below).

Two other regional efforts that are also part of the MCZM Program are the Cape Cod Commission and Martha's Vineyard Commission. The Cape Cod Commission provides the MCZM Cape Cod Regional Coordinator with office space and administrative support, while the Regional Coordinator serves as staff to the Cape Cod Commission's Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee, which is made up of people appointed by the Selectmen in each of the 15 towns on the Cape. MCZM provides the Martha's Vineyard Commission with technical assistance and MCZM's Director serves as the Governor's designee to the Commission. Through MCZM, the Commonwealth also actively cooperates with other coastal states on issues of mutual concern.

MCZM plays a large role in the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council, which is responsible for restoring the natural resources that were injured by the PCBs and metals that were released into New Bedford Harbor and Buzzards Bay. This work is funded by $20 million paid to the Trustees by area electronics manufacturers as part of a legal settlement. The Secretary of EOEA serves as the Commonwealth's Trustee on the Council, and MCZM's Director often serves as the Secretary's designee at Trustee Council Meetings. In addition, MCZM staff provide outreach, legal, and technical support to the Trustee Council. MCZM is also a member of the Narragansett Bay National Estuaries Program Management Committee.

On the national level . . . The MCZM Director is the Governor's representative to the national Coastal States' Organization (CSO), an advocacy group for state coastal and ocean interests in Washington, DC. In addition, MCZM assists the Massachusetts Congressional delegation by providing briefings and advice on coastal policy and legislative issues. MCZM also serves on the Minerals Management Service's Outer Continental Shelf Advisory Committee, which meets twice a year to advise the Minerals Management Service on offshore oil and gas policy and program development. Membership to this committee gives Massachusetts the means to weigh in on both regional and national offshore development issues.

Internationally . . . MCZM's biggest international effort is the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. In December, 1989, the Governors of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine signed an agreement with the Premiers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia pledging to protect the environmental integrity of the Gulf of Maine. The Gulf of Maine Council was established to execute this agreement. MCZM's Director and the Secretary of EOEA represent the Governor on the Council. Council activities include habitat protection, marine monitoring, marine debris reduction, and public participation.

THE MCZM REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Coastal management at the local level is a vital part of the MCZM program. From the beginning, MCZM has worked closely with local communities to ensure that local decision-making is based on sound coastal management principles. To directly serve the coastal communities throughout the state, MCZM established its regional technical assistance program and maintains four regional offices.

The following is a list of MCZM's regional offices, along with the communities within the legal coastal zone boundary that they serve. Communities outside this coastal zone boundary can also receive technical assistance and other support from either the regional office nearest them, or MCZM's Boston office.

MCZM North Shore Regional Office
#2 State Fish Pier
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (508) 281-3972 Fax: (508) 281-8979

MCZM's North Shore Regional Office serves the coastal communities in Essex County, covering the coast from Salisbury to Revere. These communities, which are in the Merrimack, Parker, Ipswich, and North Coastal watersheds, are: Amesbury, Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Ipswich, Lynn, Manchester, Marblehead, Nahant, Newbury, Newburyport, Peabody, Revere, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Saugus, and Swampscott.

MCZM Boston Harbor Regional Office
100 Cambridge Street, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02202
Phone: (617) 727-9530 Fax: (617) 727-2754

The MCZM Boston Harbor Region includes coastal communities in the Mystic, Charles, Neponset, and Weymouth and Weir watersheds. It covers: Boston, Braintree, Chelsea, Cohasset, Everett, Hingham, Hull, Milton, Quincy, Weymouth, and Winthrop.

MCZM South Coastal Regional Office
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347
Phone: (508) 946-8990 Fax: (508) 947-6557

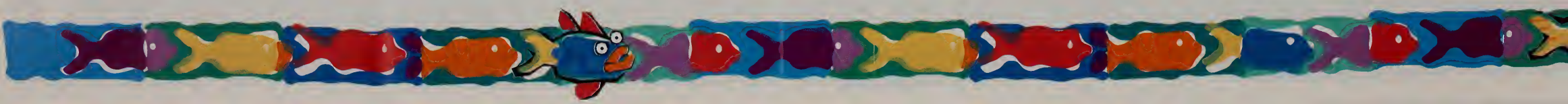
MCZM's South Coastal Region covers the coastal communities from Scituate to Seekonk, excluding Cape Cod and the islands. These communities are in the South Coastal, Buzzards Bay, Mount Hope Bay, Narragansett Bay, and Taunton watersheds. The South Coastal communities are: Acushnet, Berkley, Dartmouth, Dighton, Duxbury, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Hanover, Kingston, Marion, Marshfield, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rehoboth, Scituate, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Wareham, and Westport. Along with the South Coastal Regional Coordinator, this office is staffed by an assistant to ensure that the many communities in this region are served effectively.

MCZM Cape Cod & Islands Regional Office
P.O. Box 220
Barnstable, MA 02630-0220
Phone: (508) 362-1760 Fax: (508) 362-1698

The MCZM Cape Cod & Islands Regional Office, located at 3225 Main Street in Barnstable, serves the 15 towns of Barnstable County, along with Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands. These communities, which are in the Cape Cod Bay, Cape Cod, and Buzzards Bay watersheds are: Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Gay Head, Gosnold, Harwich, Mashpee, Nantucket, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth. Like the South Coastal Regional Office, the Cape Cod & Islands Regional Office is staffed by both a regional coordinator and an assistant.

The regional program is central to MCZM's mission. The regional coordinators provide key functions including:

- Serving as liaisons between federal and state programs and municipal authorities on key initiatives within the coastal zone.
- Coordinating with regional initiatives, such as EOEA Basin Teams, to address and identify watershed management goals and foster implementation of those goals.
- Performing Federal Consistency Review and providing technical assistance.
- Facilitating local initiatives that are consistent with MCZM program goals, such as resource management and watershed and port/harbor planning efforts.



Specifically, the regional coordinator's role in MCZM's top priorities are:

- *Port and Harbor Revitalization* — To work directly with the communities to develop port/harbor master plans and dredge disposal strategies.

- *Coastal Water Quality Improvement* — To assist the state agencies, local officials, and regional and nonprofit groups that are working on watershed-based pollution assessment, prevention, and reduction efforts. MCZM's regional technical assistance program complements the EOEA statewide Basin Approach to Watershed Management. The boundaries for MCZM's regions closely follow watershed boundaries and regional coordinators work cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Watershed Management Watershed Teams and independent watershed associations.

- *Special Natural Areas Protection* — To coordinate with communities and federal agencies in developing master plans for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), barrier beaches, and other areas that warrant special protection because of the vital coastal resources involved.

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS

MCZM also administers two National Estuary Programs (NEPs), which are funded by EOEA and EPA. The principle goals of these NEPs are to:

- Determine the sources of contaminants that have degraded water quality within these estuaries.

- Develop management recommendations to protect and improve water quality and the health of these estuaries.

The Buzzards Bay Project
Marion Town House
2 Spring Street, 2nd Floor
Marion, MA 02738
Phone: (508) 748-3600 Fax: (508) 748-3962

The Buzzards Bay Project (BBP) was established in 1985 as one of the first four NEPs in the nation. The BBP's goal is to characterize and assess water quality problems in Buzzards Bay (a declared estuary of national significance) and its watershed, which includes 17 Massachusetts municipalities. The BBP was the first NEP in the country to complete a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP provides guidance to local cities and towns for protecting water quality and living resources in Buzzards Bay. The BBP is now in the process of implementing this CCMP.

The Massachusetts Bays Program
100 Cambridge Street, Room 2006
Boston, MA 02202
(617) 727-9530 Fax: (617) 727-2754
(800) 447-BAYS *(Info Line)*

In 1990, the Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) became the second Estuary of National Significance in Massachusetts. The MBP covers the area from the Merrimack River to Cape Cod, including both Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay. The MBP's primary focus is on research, planning, and management of water quality in order to: protect and restore wildlife and living resources habitat, protect public health from risk of environmental contaminants, enhance the aesthetic quality of the resource, and increase safe public use of the Bays. The MBP has developed a draft CCMP to address these areas of concern. This CCMP is the first action plan of its kind in the region, covering 13 river basins that drain 6,300 square miles of land to the Bays. The evolving plan will be finalized and approved by state and federal officials in 1996 and will include recommendations for 49 coastal communities from the New Hampshire border to the tip of Cape Cod.

CONCLUSION — BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Clearly, MCZM encompasses a wide variety of programs and activities. The purpose of all these different MCZM components is the same — to soundly and proactively manage the coastal zone of Massachusetts. The true role of MCZM is to ensure that its programs and activities work effectively with the efforts of other state agencies, as well as local, regional, federal, and international groups, to develop and implement state policy that makes a positive difference for the Commonwealth's coast.

Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management

The coast of Massachusetts is a magnificent and traditionally important resource, including over 1,500 miles of shoreline. Massachusetts' coastline includes beautiful stretches of rocky shore, barrier beaches, productive estuaries, fragile salt marshes, bustling ports and harbors, tidal flats, and dozens of islands. Because of the beauty and bounty of the area, many different interests compete for the use of these precious miles of shoreline. The goal of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office (MCZM) is to balance these competing interests by protecting the natural resources of the coast while promoting responsible economic development.

MCZM's mission is to provide policy leadership, assistance, and education to the network of agencies, communities, and individuals who are collectively responsible for the stewardship of coastal resources, in order to promote well-informed decisions, protect the integrity of natural systems, and respond effectively to human needs.

- **North Shore Region** — Darker area is the official coastal zone.
- **Boston Harbor Region** — Darker area is the official coastal zone.
- **South Coastal Region** — Darker area is the official coastal zone.
- **Cape Cod & Island Region** — Entire region is in the coastal zone.
- **Massachusetts Coastal Watershed Boundaries** — MCZM's Coastal Nonpoint Program covers these watersheds because they drain into Massachusetts coastal waters.
- **Designated Port Areas (DPAs)**
- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)**
- **Bathymetry** — 0–30, 30–60, 60–120, 120–300, 300+ feet
- **Scale** — 1:285,000

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William F. Weld, Governor
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Lieutenant Governor

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Trudy Coxe, Secretary

Coastal Zone Management
Peg Brady, Director
Phil Smith, Assistant Director

GULF OF MAINE

MASSACHUSETTS BAY

ATLANTIC OCEAN

CAPE COD BAY

NANTUCKET SOUND

BUZZARDS BAY

VINEYARD SOUND

RHODE ISLAND SOUND

Parker Watershed
Merrimack Watershed
Ipswich Watershed
Shawsheen Watershed
Nashua Watershed
North Coastal Watershed
Mystic Watershed
Concord Watershed
Charles Watershed
Weymouth & Weir Watershed
Neponset Watershed
South Coastal Watershed
Taunton Watershed
Ten Mile Watershed
Narragansett Bay Watershed
Mount Hope Bay Watershed
Buzzards Bay Watershed
Cape Cod Watershed
Cape Cod Bay Watershed

Parker River/Essex Bay ACEC
Gloucester DPA
Beverly Harbor DPA
Salem Harbor DPA
Rumney Marshes ACEC
Lynn DPA
Mystic River DPA
Chelsea Creek DPA
East Boston DPA
South Boston DPA
Weymouth Fore River DPA
Neponset River Estuary ACEC
Back River (Weymouth/Hingham) ACEC
Weir River ACEC
Plymouth Cordage Park DPA
Wellfleet Harbor ACEC
Ellisville Harbor ACEC
Herring River Watershed ACEC
Inner Cape Cod Bay ACEC
Sandy Neck ACEC
Pleasant Bay ACEC
Mt. Hope Bay DPA
Back River (Bourne) ACEC
Pocasset River ACEC
New Bedford—Fairhaven DPA
Waquoit Bay ACEC

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Stellwagen Bank
Cape Ann
Salem Sound
Plymouth Bay
Narragansett Bay
Martha's Vineyard Island
Nantucket Island

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MCZM Information Line
For MCZM publications
Phone: (617) 727-9530, x420

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MCZM South Coastal Regional Office
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Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management

Merrimack Watershed
Nashua Watershed
Concord Watershed
Shawsheen Watershed
Parker Watershed
Ipswich Watershed
Mystic Watershed
Charles Watershed
Neponset Watershed
North Coastal Watershed
Weymouth & Weir Watershed
South Coastal Watershed

Limit of Territorial Waters

Amesbury
Newburyport
Rowley
Ipswich
Plum Island Sound
Ipswich Bay
Essex Bay
Essex
Gloucester
Manchester
Danvers
Beverly
Peabody
Salem Sound
Salem Harbor
Marblehead Harbor
Swampscott
Lynn
Saugus
Nahant Bay
Lynn Harbor
Revere
Everett
Chelsea
Broad Sound
Winthrop
Boston
Boston Harbor
Dorchester Bay
Quincy Bay
Hingham Bay
Milton
Quincy
Hingham
Cohasset
Scituate
Norwell
Hanover
Marshfield
Pembroke
Duxbury
Duxbury Bay
Brant Rock
Cohasset Harbor
Strawberry Point
Scituate Harbor
Eastern Point
Gloucester Harbor
Halibut Point
Sandy Bay
Rockport

Parker River/Essex Bay ACEC
Gloucester DPA
Beverly Harbor DPA
Salem Harbor DPA
Rumney Marshes ACEC
Lynn DPA
MASSACHUSETTS BAY
Mystic River DPA
Chelsea Creek DPA
East Boston DPA
South Boston DPA
Weymouth Fore River DPA
Neponset River Estuary AC
Back River (Weymouth/Hingha
Weir River ACEC

GULF OF MAINE

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Boundary

Parker River/Essex Bay ACEC

Halibut Point

Sandy Bay

Ipswich Bay

Cape Ann

Rockport

Gloucester

Gloucester Harbor

Eastern Point

Gloucester DPA

arbor DPA
arbor DPA

Marshes ACEC

TS BAY

PA

Neponset River Estuary ACEC
k River (Weymouth/Hingham) ACEC
Weir River ACEC

Stellwagen Bank

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Scituate Harbor

South River

Marshfield

Brant Rock

Duxbury

Watershed

Duxbury Bay

Race Point

Provincetown

Provincetown Harbor

Truro

This report was prepared by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and is funded by a grant from the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its sub-agencies. This information is available on alternate formats upon request. Printed on recycled paper.

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Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management

The coast of Massachusetts is a magnificent and traditionally important resource, including over 1,500 miles of shoreline. Massachusetts' coastline includes beautiful stretches of rocky shore, barrier beaches, productive estuaries, fragile salt marshes, bustling ports and harbors, tidal flats, and dozens of islands. Because of the beauty and bounty of the area, many different interests compete for the use of these precious miles of shoreline. The goal of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office (MCZM) is to balance these competing interests by protecting the natural resources of the coast while promoting responsible economic development.

MCZM's mission is to provide policy leadership, assistance, and education to the network of agencies, communities, and individuals who are collectively responsible for the stewardship of coastal resources, in order to promote well-informed decisions, protect the integrity of natural systems, and respond effectively to human needs.

North Shore Region
Darker area is the official coastal zone.

Boston Harbor Region
Darker area is the official coastal zone.

South Coastal Region
Darker area is the official coastal zone.

Cape Cod & Island Region
Entire region is in the coastal zone.

Massachusetts Coastal Watershed Boundaries
MCZM's Coastal Nonpoint Program covers these watersheds because they drain into Massachusetts coastal waters.

Designated Port Areas (DPAs)

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Bathymetry
0–30, 30–60, 60–120, 120–300, 300+ feet

Scale
1:285,000

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William F. Weld, Governor
Argeo Paul Cellucci,
Lieutenant Governor

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Trudy Coxe, Secretary

Coastal Zone Management
Peg Brady, Director
Phil Smith,
Assistant Director

Ten Mile Watershed
Taunton Watershed
South Coastal Watershed
Narragansett Bay Watershed
Mount Hope Bay Watershed
Buzzards Bay Watershed
Mt. Hope Bay DPA
New Bedford—Fairhaven DPA
Back River (Bourne) ACEC
Pocasset River ACEC
Narragansett Bay
RHODE ISLAND SOUND
BUZZARDS BAY
VINEYARD SOUND
Limit of Territorial Waters
Brockton
Bridgewater
Middleborough
Pembroke
Duxbury
East Bridgewater
West Bridgewater
Kingston
Plymouth
Seekonk
Rehoboth
Dighton
Berkley
Somerset
Swansea
Taunton River
Freetown
Fall River
Mount Hope Bay
Acushnet
New Bedford
Westport
Dartmouth
Fairhaven
Wareham
Marion
Mattapoisett
Sippican Harbor
Mattapoisett Harbor
Weweantic River
Agawam River
Buttermilk Bay
Megansett Harbor
Duxbury Bay
Jones River
Kingston Bay
Plymouth Harbor
Plymouth Bay
East Rock
New Bedford Harbor
Nasketucket Bay
Clades Cove
Apponagansett Bay
West Island
Gooseberry Neck
Quisset Harbor
Woods Hole
Nobska Point
Waquoit
Elizabeth Islands
Gosnold
Lake Tashmoo
Vineyard Haven
Cuttyhunk Harbor
Cape Higgon
West Tisbury
Gay Head
Menemsha Pond
Chilmark
Martha's Vineyard
Nomans Land
West Falmouth Harbor

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